

**De-electrification of Bihar Villages for Railway Electrification**

1512. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the December, 1999 issue of the "Out Look", to the effect that 14000 villages in Bihar had to be de-electrified for Railway Electrification Projects; and

(b) what are the details in this regard and the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Ministry of Railways have seen the write-up titled "Fictional Power" as appeared in 20th December, 1999 issue of the "OUTLOOK" magazine. However, there is no mention that any village had to be de-electrified for Railway Electrification Projects.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

**Developments in Biotechnology for Agricultural Production**

1513. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a strategy to make the fullest use of new developments in biotechnology so as to increase agricultural production and to improve the health status of the nation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in association with other S&T Departments, State Governments, NGOs and Private Sector is implementing several projects/programmes to harness new developments in biotechnology to increase agricultural production including aspects of malnutrition